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Letter dated 14 December 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter of 25 October 2004 (S/2004/858) from the President of the Security Council, in which he informed me that the members of the Council had concurred with the recommendation contained in my letter of 6 October 2004 (S/2004/797) to extend the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) for a further period of three years, from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007, and that they had taken note of my intention to strengthen UNOWA to enable it to perform its mandate more effectively.

As requested by the members of the Council, I attach a copy of the intended mandate, functions and activities of UNOWA from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Mandate, functions and activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007

I. Mandate

1. The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) is entrusted with the overall mandate of enhancing the contribution of the United Nations towards the achievement of peace and security priorities in West Africa.

II. Functions

2. In the performance of its mandate, UNOWA will continue to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Enhance linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the subregion, by promoting an integrated subregional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange, with due regard to specific mandates of United Nations organizations as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices;

(b) Liaise with and assist, as appropriate, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union, in consultation with other subregional organizations and international partners;

(c) Carry out good offices roles and special assignments in countries of the subregion, on behalf of the Secretary-General, including in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts;

(d) Report to Headquarters on key developments of subregional significance;

(e) Carry out additional tasks assigned by the Secretary-General and the Security Council, including support to the work of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission and follow-up of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the June 2004 Security Council mission to West Africa (S/2004/525 of 2 July 2004), and of the Council's recommendations on cross-border issues in West Africa (S/PRST/2004/7 of 25 March 2004).

III. Activities

3. In order to best achieve its above functions, the United Nations Office for West Africa will carry out the following activities:

(a) Enhance harmonization of the activities of the various United Nations missions and other regional entities through the regular holding of meetings of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and meetings with regional heads of United Nations agencies for West Africa;

(b) Strengthen cooperation with the ECOWAS secretariat in the promotion of peace, stability, good governance and development, including through the implementation of the joint programme of work developed by UNOWA and

ECOWAS and working visits by UNOWA staff to the ECOWAS secretariat. Cooperation with ECOWAS will continue to be carried out within the framework of cooperation agreed in 2004;

(c) Enhance cooperation with ECOWAS member States and their representatives in Abuja, including through regular working or good offices visits, as well as joint programmes and activities on peace, governance and development issues;

(d) Strengthen cooperation with key regional and international partners. These include the Mano River Union, the International Contact Group for the Mano River Basin, the European union and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as civil society organizations and the private sector. Cooperation with the European Union will continue to be carried out within the agreed framework of cooperation;

(e) Follow-up of the matrix, formulated with key partners in the region, on the implementation of the recommendations on practical ways of combating cross-border problems in West Africa contained in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/200 of 12 March 2004) and in the Presidential Statement of the Security Council (S/PRST/2004/7 of 25 March 2004) adopted at the conclusion of its open debate. In this connection, periodic progress reports will be prepared on the implementation of the recommendations;

(f) Facilitate the identification of practical ways of curbing or minimizing emerging or potential tensions in specific border areas of the West African region, including through field visits and the formulation of integrated border strategies;

(g) Develop better knowledge and awareness about cross-border and subregional problems confronting West Africa, including through the following activities: (i) undertake studies, organize forums and seminars, and help develop practical and concerted strategies for addressing current forefront and emerging issues in West Africa, including the regional dimensions of youth unemployment, security sector reform, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; (ii) prepare periodic updates on the regional impact of conflict situations; (iii) develop targeted public information strategies on cross-border and subregional issues in West Africa. These activities are organized in cooperation with the relevant United Nations entities and partners in the region;

(h) Facilitate, mainly by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in his capacity as chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, the implementation of the work plan approved by Cameroon and Nigeria towards the implementation of the 10 October 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice on the land and maritime boundary dispute between the two countries and help with the demarcation process.